

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ROBERTO J. BLANDINO,) No. C 11-4807 JSW (PR)
Plaintiff,)
v.) **ORDER OF SERVICE**
UNITED STATES; DOES 1-10,)
Defendant.)

INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff, a detainee of the United States Customs Enforcement (“ICE”), filed this complaint under the Federal Tort Claims Act. Plaintiff is granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis in a separate order. The Court now reviews the amended complaint and orders it served upon Defendant.

DISCUSSION

I. Standard of Review

Federal courts must engage in a preliminary screening of cases in which prisoners seek redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). The Court must identify cognizable claims or dismiss any portion of the complaint, if the complaint “is frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted,” or “seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief.” *Id.* § 1915A(b). Pro se pleadings must be liberally construed.

Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1990).

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)(2) requires only "a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief." "Specific facts are not

necessary; the statement need only "give the defendant fair notice of what the . . . claim is and the grounds upon which it rests."'" *Erickson v. Pardus*, 127 S. Ct. 2197, 2200 (2007) (citations omitted). Although in order to state a claim a complaint "does not need detailed factual allegations, . . . a plaintiff's obligation to provide the 'grounds of his 'entitle[ment] to relief' requires more than labels and conclusions, and a formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action will not do. . . . Factual allegations must be enough to raise a right to relief above the speculative level." *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 127 S. Ct. 1955, 1964-65 (2007) (citations omitted). A complaint must proffer "enough facts to state a claim for relief that is plausible on its face." *Id.* at 1974. Pro se pleadings must be liberally construed. *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1990).

To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two elements: (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was violated, and (2) that the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the color of state law. *West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

II. Legal Claims

Plaintiff alleges that while he was detained in an ICE facility in San Francisco, two ICE officers "maliciously" beat him up, causing him to suffer injuries. He claims that they committed "assault, battery, false imprisonment, false arrest, and/or abuse of process.

In 1946, Congress passed the Federal Tort Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 1346(b), 2671-2680 ("FTCA"), which waived the sovereign immunity of the United States for certain torts committed by federal employees acting within the scope of their employment. *See FDIC v. Meyer*, 510 U.S. 471, 475-76 (1994). The FTCA provides that district courts have exclusive jurisdiction of civil actions against the United States for money damages "for injury or loss of property, or personal injury or death caused by the negligent or wrongful act or omission of any employee" of the federal government while acting within the scope of his office or employment. 28 U.S.C. § 1346(b).

1 When liberally construed, Plaintiff's allegations state cognizable claims for relief
2 against the United States of America.

3 **CONCLUSION**

4 1. The Clerk of the Court shall issue summons and the United States Marshal
5 shall serve, without prepayment of fees, a copy of the complaint and all attachments
6 thereto, and a copy of this order upon the United States of America, and Janet
7 Napolitano, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

8 The Clerk shall also mail a courtesy copy of the complaint and this order to the
9 United States Attorney's Office of the Northern District of California.

10 The Clerk shall also serve a copy of this order on Plaintiff.

11 2. In order to expedite the resolution of this case, the Court orders as follows:

12 a. No later than **ninety (90) days** from the date this order is filed,
13 Defendant shall either file a motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion,
14 or a notice to the Court that they are of the opinion that this matter cannot be resolved by
15 dispositive motion. The motion shall be supported by adequate factual documentation
16 and shall conform in all respects to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56.

17 Defendant is advised that summary judgment cannot be granted, nor
18 qualified immunity found, if material facts are in dispute. If defendants are of the
19 opinion that this case cannot be resolved by summary judgment, they shall so
20 inform the Court prior to the date the summary judgment motion is due.

21 All papers filed with the Court shall be promptly served on the Plaintiff.

22 b. Plaintiff's opposition to the dispositive motion, if any, shall be filed with
23 the court and served upon defendants no later than thirty days from the date of service of
24 the motion. Plaintiff must read the attached page headed "NOTICE -- WARNING,"
25 which is provided to him pursuant to *Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 953-954 (9th Cir.
26 1998) (en banc), and *Klingele v. Eikenberry*, 849 F.2d 409, 411-12 (9th Cir. 1988).

27 If defendants file an unenumerated motion to dismiss claiming that plaintiff failed
28 to exhaust his available administrative remedies, plaintiff should take note of the

1 attached page headed "NOTICE -- WARNING (EXHAUSTION)." *See Wyatt v.*
2 *Terhune*, 315 F.3d 1108, 1120 n. 4 (9th Cir. 2003)

3 c. Defendants shall file a reply brief no later than **fifteen (15) days** after
4 Plaintiff's opposition is filed.

5 d. The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is
6 due. No hearing will be held on the motion unless the Court so orders at a later date.

7 4. Discovery may be taken in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil
8 Procedure. No further Court order under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2) or
9 Local Rule 16 is required before the parties may conduct discovery.

10 5. Extensions of time are not favored, though reasonable extensions will be
11 granted. Any motion for an extension of time must be filed no later than **five** days prior
12 to the deadline sought to be extended.

13 6. All communications by Plaintiff with the Court must be served on Defendant,
14 or Defendant's counsel once counsel has been designated, by mailing a true copy of the
15 document to Defendant or Defendant's counsel.

16 7. It is Plaintiff's responsibility to prosecute this case. Plaintiff must keep the
17 Court informed of any change of address and must comply with the Court's orders in a
18 timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to
19 prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

20 IT IS SO ORDERED.

21 DATED: October 26, 2011

22 
23 JEFFREY S. WHITE
United States District Judge
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ROBERTO X BLANDINO,

Case Number: CV11-04807 JSW

Plaintiff,

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

V.

UNITED STATES et al,

Defendant.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California.

That on October 26, 2011, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

Roberto X. Blandino 077 223 173
ICE Detention Facility
1623 East J Street
Suite 5
Tacoma, WA 98421-1615

Dated: October 26, 2011

Jennifer Ottolini
Richard W. Wieking, Clerk
By: Jennifer Ottolini, Deputy Clerk

1 **NOTICE -- WARNING (SUMMARY JUDGMENT)**

2 If defendants move for summary judgment, they are seeking to have your case dismissed.

3 A motion for summary judgment under Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure will, if
4 granted, end your case.

5 Rule 56 tells you what you must do in order to oppose a motion for summary judgment.

6 Generally, summary judgment must be granted when there is no genuine issue of material
7 fact--that is, if there is no real dispute about any fact that would affect the result of your case, the
8 party who asked for summary judgment is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, which will
9 end your case. When a party you are suing makes a motion for summary judgment that is
10 properly supported by declarations (or other sworn testimony), you cannot simply rely on what
11 your complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in declarations, depositions, answers
12 to interrogatories, or authenticated documents, as provided in Rule 56(e), that contradict the facts
13 shown in the defendant's declarations and documents and show that there is a genuine issue of
14 material fact for trial. If you do not submit your own evidence in opposition, summary judgment,
15 if appropriate, may be entered against you. If summary judgment is granted, your case will be
16 dismissed and there will be no trial.

17 **NOTICE -- WARNING (EXHAUSTION)**

18 If defendants file an unenumerated motion to dismiss for failure to exhaust, they are
19 seeking to have your case dismissed. If the motion is granted it will end your case.

20 You have the right to present any evidence you may have which tends to show that you
21 did exhaust your administrative remedies. Such evidence may be in the form of declarations
22 (statements signed under penalty of perjury) or authenticated documents, that is, documents
23 accompanied by a declaration showing where they came from and why they are authentic, or
24 other sworn papers, such as answers to interrogatories or depositions.

25 If defendants file a motion to dismiss and it is granted, your case will be dismissed and
26 there will be no trial.